

# MEMO

**TO:** Prevention Partnership Providers

**FROM:** Heather Weaver, RN  
Immunization Program Manager

**RE:** Influenza Vaccine Availability for VFC-Eligible Children

**DATE:** September 28, 2004

The North Dakota Immunization Program will be able to supply influenza vaccine during the 2004-2005 influenza season **only for VFC-eligible children** due to limited funding and supply.

Influenza vaccine provided by the North Dakota Department of Health should be used for the following groups only:

- VFC-eligible children 6 – 23 months old
- VFC-eligible children 2 – 18 years old with chronic medical conditions, such as asthma, diabetes, heart or lung conditions, etc.
- VFC-eligible children who are household contacts of children at risk for complications related to influenza disease as described above

All other children should receive influenza vaccine purchased by private providers or the local public health units.

All children must be screened for VFC eligibility. VFC status must be documented on the Vaccine Administration Record, kept in the patient's permanent medical record and must be documented in the North Dakota Immunization Information System (NDIIS). VFC eligibility includes children who are in one of the following categories:

- American Indian/Alaskan Native
- Medicaid recipient
- No insurance
- Under-insured (The child must be vaccinated in a federally-qualified health center or rural health clinic to meet this requirement.)

The North Dakota Department of Health will monitor the vaccine supply and modify recommendations for use of this vaccine as necessary. The department also is exploring mechanisms to provide additional influenza vaccine or reimbursement for the VFC-eligible population if the demand exceeds what has been provided. Updated information will be provided as the situation changes throughout the influenza season.

Please contact the Immunization Program at 701.328.3386 or 800.472.2180 for questions or concerns.